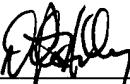


Applicant/Serial No.: Nicholas F. D'Antonio et al. / 09/937,357  
Filed/Conf. No. 09/24/2001 / Conf. No. 7922  
Examiner/Group: Ann Y. Lam / 1641  
Response mailed: 1 / 6 / 2005  
Attorney File: DA7119US (#90036)

### REMARKS

In compliance with the "Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment" mailed on December 13, 2004, the status identifier of "(new)" has been added to claim 84 as presented in the "Amendments to the Claims" portion of the "Amendment" mailed to the USPTO on November 29, 2004 in response to the Office Action of July 27, 2004. As the Legal Instruments Examiner (Ms. Martino) had indicated that the Amendment, which was received at the USPTO on December 3, 2004, was a *bona fide* attempt to be a reply and applicants were given one month to effect this correction, it is believed that no additional fees are required for this response. However, if any such fee is required, please charge the same to applicants' attorney's Deposit Account No. 08-2441.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
D. Peter Hochberg  
Reg. No. 24,603

DPH/ck

### Certificate of Mailing

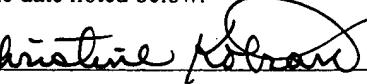
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I hereby certify that this document, and anything indicated as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date noted below.

Christine Kotran: 

Date: January 6, 2005